



**MARKET HARBOUROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**ON THE**

**Health and Sanitary State of  
the District for the year**

**1946,**

**BY**

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**AND**

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MARKET HARBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the Medical Officer of Health and the  
Sanitary Inspector for 1946.

GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present our Annual Report for 1946.

STATISTICS.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,771
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...						9,897
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...			2,989
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£66,385
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...				£262

INDUSTRIES.

There have been no new industries started in the town, but those already in existence have been fully employed during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births : Legitimate	96	90	186
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	<u>98</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>190</u>
Still Births : Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year : Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
Deaths (all ages)	<u>55</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>101</u>

	1946.	1945.	England and Wales. 1946.
Live birth-rate (Per 1,000 population) :	19.2	18.9	19.1
Still birth-rate ( , , , ) :	0.6	1.0	0.53
Death-rate ( , , , ) :	10.2	12.5	11.5
Infant Mortality			
rate ( , , live births) :	47.3	51.0	43.0

*Population.*—There is a slight increase in the population since last year (9,792).

*Birth Rate.*—Shows a slight increase, and almost the same as the average for England and Wales.

*Death Rate.*—This is lower than last year and is lower than the rate for the country as a whole.

*Infant Mortality Rate.*—This has decreased but is still higher than the average.

*Puerperal Fever.*—One case of puerperal fever, and one case of puerperal pyrexia were notified. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

*Causes of Death.*—The principle causes of death were :—

Cancer	... ..	14
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	15
Heart Disease	... ..	23
Tuberculosis	... ..	2
Pneumonia	... ..	6
Influenza	... ..	1
Road Accident	... ..	1

There were no deaths from infantile diarrhoea or other infectious disease.



## HEALTH SERVICES.

*Laboratory Facilities.*—The following examinations were carried out at the County Council Laboratory numbering 336 :—

Milk Examinations (Bacteriological) . . .	73
Blood Counts . . . . .	64
Sewage and Water Analyses . . . . .	60
Sputa for T.B. . . . .	47
Milk for Phosphatase test . . . . .	32
Swabs for Diphtheria . . . . .	22
Urine (general and bacteriological) . . . . .	15
Urine for T.B. . . . .	7
Ice Cream (Bacteriological) . . . . .	7
Blood for Wassermann Test . . . . .	2
Films for Gonococci . . . . .	1
Miscellaneous . . . . .	6

*Day Nursery.*—The Day Nursery has been well patronised. There was an average attendance of 32, with accommodation for 48 children.

*Ambulance Services.*—Ambulances are provided by the County Council for the removal of infectious disease cases. All other ambulance services are very efficiently provided by the Market Harborough Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

*Home Nursing.*—One District Nurse-Midwife is employed by the Market Harborough and District Hospital (subsidised by the Urban District Council). The District Nurse attended 49 confinements during the year. There are no other facilities for home nursing.

*Centres and Clinics.*—There are no treatment clinics in the town. Ante-natal clinics are held each week in the Maternity Section of the Hospital and by the District Nurse at the M. & C.W. Building. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic continues to be in charge of the Health Visitor and Voluntary Staff of ladies. Well attended sessions are held once a week and a doctor is present at alternate Sessions. A full time Health Visitor is employed by the Council and all children under 5 years of age are regularly visited, and their parents advised. Owing to the resignation of your former Health Visitor, the application of Miss H. A. Shutt, S.R.N., Health Visitor's Diploma, R.S.I., C.M.B., for the post of permanent Health Visitor was accepted by the Council in July, and she has carried out her duties assiduously since her appointment.

*Hospitals.*—The voluntary hospital which is subsidised by the local authority has a capacity for approximately 18 beds and has a maternity block of 15 beds. 227 Confinements were conducted in this block during 1946. The Public Assistance Infirmary has 50 beds. Both hospitals have had considerable difficulty in providing sufficient nursing staff.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—Free immunisation is provided by the Council for all children. This is carried out at the M. & C.W. Centre for children under 5 years of age and for the older children in the schools; 195 children were immunised. A campaign for a reinforcement injection for eligible children was instituted in the autumn, and with the willing and efficient co-operation of the teachers, this was successfully carried out in the schools. 749 Children received the reinforcement injection or approximately 96% of those eligible.

*Health Service Officers :—*

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (Part-time).
- 1 Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time).
- 1 Health Visitor (Whole-time).

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water.*—A satisfactory supply has been maintained throughout the year both in regard to quality and quantity. With a more normal rainfall and the gradual departure of military and evacuee population, supplies have been sufficient to meet demand. Consequently the emergency scheme for the supply of River Welland water, purified in the Public Baths filtration and chlorination plant, was in operation for only a short period during the early part of the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the water going into the piped supply were made with the following results :—

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Raw water           ... ..	13	2
Treated water       ... ..	39	1

The two unsatisfactory samples of ordinary water were traced to one well by means of individual samples, and the well was chlorinated heavily. Subsequent samples showed the well to be quite satisfactory.

One sample of treated river water was unsatisfactory, attributed to flood water. Heavier chlorination was imposed over a period and no further trouble arose.

A copy of the bacteriological report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 5th December, 1946, regarding the last sample from the town main, is appended :—

“Coliform Organisms absent in 10 c.cs.”

Extensions of supply mains have been carried out to provide for the Bowden Fields Estate of one hundred Council Houses.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry has been held into a scheme for an additional supply to double the present quantity. Information is also being obtained as to the possibility of bulk supplies from Leicester or Northampton.

The supply to dwelling-houses in the district is as follows :—

	Houses.	Population.
Number supplied from private wells	49	163
Number supplied from public water		
Mains :—		
(a) Direct to the houses	2,740	9,072
(b) By means of stand-pipes	200	662

Twenty-five samples from private wells were examined, and one well was found to be contaminated. Remedial measures of cleansing and chlorination were applied, and a later sample proved to be satisfactory.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—There have been no extensions during the year. It is proposed to prepare plans for the complete overhaul and modernisation of the disposal works as soon as the more urgent matters of housing and water supply have been dealt with.



*Closet Accommodation.*—Fifty-six additional water closets have been constructed, and the total number of water closets connected to the sewerage system is now approximately 4,191. Outlying properties numbering about twenty, are provided with dry or chemical arrangements.

*Public Cleansing.* Efforts have been made to ensure that all houses are provided with Regulation dustbins, and in 262 instances owners have been called upon to provide new bins to replace those worn out. A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage material is in operation as far as present conditions permit, and during the year a total of 2,810 tons was received at the Destructor Depot, of which the following quantities were salvaged :—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Paper ... ..	38	11
Metals ... ..	51	15
Textiles ... ..	11	6
Bottles and Jars ... ..	3	14
Bones ... ..	8	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	113	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>

These amounts again showed a slight decrease in comparison with the previous year's figures.

A scheme for the regular collection of trade refuse from shops, at payments in accordance with the Council's Scale, is in operation, and 37 traders have taken advantage of this arrangement.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated ... ..	287
Defects or Nuisances dealt with ... ..	675
Informal Notices served ... ..	500
Statutory Notices served ... ..	0



*Inspections :—*

	1st. Visits.	Re-Visits.
Animal Keeping ... ..	7	1
Bakehouses ... ..	6	1
Dairies and Cowsheds ... ..	15	68
Dwelling Houses ... ..	474	428
Factories, etc. ... ..	41	22
Food Premises ... ..	49	123
Offensive Trades ... ..	3	5
Rats and Mice Destruction ... ..	3,638	2,439
Shops ... ..	14	6
Slaughter House and Meat Inspection	1	298
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ... ..	3	1
Verminous Premises ... ..	68	72
Water Supplies ... ..	22	4
Other Premises ... ..	67	77
	<hr/> 4,408 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,545 <hr/>

*Dwelling Houses :—*

General Structural repairs effected ... ..	12
Drains and Sanitary fittings repaired and new provided	22
Dustbins provided ... ..	262
Cleansing and other defects remedied ... ..	6
Licences renewed under Defence Regulation 68AA	2

*Factories, etc :—*

Sanitary accommodation provided or improved... ..	4
Drainage and other defects remedied ... ..	6
Sundry Nuisances abated ... ..	3

*Shops :—*

Sanitary convenience provided ... ..	1
Drainage defects remedied ... ..	1

*Schools :—*

Drains, sanitary fittings and structural defects attended to	4
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*Miscellaneous Nuisances :—*

Animal keeping nuisances abated ... ..	3
Dangerous structure made safe ... ..	1
Drains tested ... ..	3
Drains repaired or unstopped ... ..	4
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	14
Smoke nuisance abated ... ..	1
Van dwellers removed ... ..	1
Other defects remedied ... ..	8

*Public Mortuary :—*

The building in King's Road is owned by the Council, and was in use on one occasion during the year. Cleansing and hygienic requirements are regularly attended to by the Disinfecting Officer.

*Disinfection and Disinfestation :—*

Infected rooms fumigated ... ..	39
Verminous rooms treated ... ..	165
Articles of bedding, clothing, etc :—	
Steam disinfected ... ..	190
Destroyed ... ..	28
Articles of furniture, etc. fumigated in gas-tight compartment ... ..	217
Number of instances of bug infestation :—	
Council Houses ... ..	2
Other Houses ... ..	7
Improved cleanliness of houses ... ..	3

*Other infestations of domestic insect pests treated :—*

Ants ... ..	28
Cockroaches ... ..	3
Fleas ... ..	3
Flies ... ..	14
Silver Fish ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	8

*Rats and Mice Destruction :—*

The work of rodent destruction under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 and the Infestation Order 1943 has continued throughout the year and has been carried out by the Rats Officer, who also acts as Disinfecting Officer. The Ministry of Food's highly successful system of pre-baiting and poisoning has again been in operation. In this method, rats are first fed for several days on a suitable bait such as damp sausage rusk before poison is added, and consequently a fairly accurate estimate of the number of rats present can be obtained. After poisoning, all dead bodies and any poisoned bait remaining are removed, and a post-bait usually of bread mash is laid in order to ascertain if there has been a complete clearance. This method is supplemented where conditions are suitable with trapping and gassing.

During May and June, the whole of the sewerage system comprising 350 manholes, was treated and "takes" of pre-bait were recorded in 27 manholes. The latter were then poison-baited and a second treatment of the affected areas was carried out in November. The estimated number of rats killed in the two treatments was 54.

In August, work commenced upon the Ministry of Food's "Private Dwellings—Special Scheme 1946/47." This scheme comprised a systematic inspection of all premises in the district and the destruction of rats found at private dwellings free of charge to the occupiers. The special conditions, which applied only to the financial year ending on 31st March, 1947, were that the Ministry agreed to bear the expense of the survey and 60% of the cost of rat destruction, the Council being responsible for the balance of 40% of the latter. A considerable proportion of the district had been covered at the close of the year and the results have been very beneficial. During the visits to premises, the opportunity has been taken to give advice upon the best means of rat-proofing buildings, fowlpens, etc. and improving conditions generally with a view to preventing re-infestation.



The following is a detailed summary of the work accomplished during the year :—

Reports and complaints of infestations investigated	150
Infestations dealt with :—Rats 206, Mice 27 ... ..	233
(Classification of infestations :—Major 2, Medium 65, Minor 166)	
Premises visited . . . . .	3,638
Repeat visits . . . . .	2,439
Pre-baits and test-baits placed . . . . .	3,719
Poison baits laid . . . . .	1,741
Occasions when gas used . . . . .	31
Occasions when traps set for :—Rats 61, Mice 43 ...	104
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry Formula)...	2,599
Dead bodies removed after poisoning or gassing and from traps :—Rats 176, Mice 181 ... ..	357
Requests for services by payment . . . . .	69
Proofing of buildings carried out . . . . .	16
Refuse removed and other improvements effected . . .	16
Infestations of farm premises referred to W.A.E.C. ...	4

*Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control.*

Written consent to establishment of trade of Rag and Bone Dealer renewed . . . . .	1
Written consent to establishment of trades of Fat Extractor, Fat Melter and Glue Maker granted . . .	1

*Note* :—The latter relates to a former Works which were disused for a long period, and have been recently re-built and equipped on modern lines).

*Petrol and Carbide Stores.*

	Petroleum Spirit.	Carbide of Calcium.
Number of Licences issued . . . . .	3	0
Number of Licences renewed . . . . .	20	1
Number of contraventions rectified . . . . .	2	0

*Swimming Bath :—*

The Public Baths are owned by the Council and have been open to the members of the public, including schools and organised parties during the summer months. The water of the covered swimming pool is treated by continuous circulation through a Paterson filtration, chlorination and aeration plant. Daily tests for chlorine content have been made by the Manager, and a chance sample examined in June was passed as being free from bacteriological contamination.

## HOUSING.

During the year thirty-seven houses have been erected, as follows :—

	Council.	Private Enterprise.
Prefabricated—temporary ... ..	27	0
Prefabricated—permanent ... ..	0	0
Permanent construction ... ..	4	6

In addition, two houses were converted by the owners to three flats each, and two N.F.S. huts were converted by the Council for human habitation.

At the close of the year, eighty-one permanent houses were in course of construction, viz. 56 by the Council and 25 by private enterprise.

It may be said, therefore, that a commencement has been made in the provision of new houses, but much remains to be done in this respect, particularly in view of the fact that there are 650 applicants on the Council's waiting list.

There has been little, if any, improvement in the position regarding the repair of defective dwelling houses. The concentration of labour and materials, already in short supply, upon the provision of new houses, has added to the difficulties of maintenance repair work, and the resulting gradual deterioration of existing houses is becoming a problem of increasing importance.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	148
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	215
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	0
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	35

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	23
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers ... .. 0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ..	3
(b) Number of families dwelling therein ...	6
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	24
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	4
(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	5
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	46
(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0
(5) Number of cases where sleeping accommodation is unsatisfactory although dwelling is not legally overcrowded ... ..	12

Particulars are being compiled of overcrowding and “border line” cases, as and when they come under observation, with a view to their relief when the opportunity arises.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

*Milk Supply* :—

	Trade.	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers ... ..		8
Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers) ... ..		4
Farms and other premises ... ..		18

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1941 :—

“Tuberculin Tested”—Dealer’s Bottling ... ..	2
do. —Dealers ... ..	2
“Pasteurised” (plants) ... ..	2
do. Dealer ... ..	1
do. Supplementary (Retailing) ... ..	1



*Milk Sampling :—*

Class.	Number of samples for bacteriological examination.		Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
"Tuberculin Tested"	...	3	2	1
"Accredited"	...	3	3	0
"Pasteurised"	...	24	20	4
Ordinary	...	4	4	0

One "Tuberculin Tested" and three "Pasteurised" samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, and one "Pasteurised" sample failed in both the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests. Each case was investigated, the premises and equipment inspected and the trader concerned was notified. Subsequent samples in all instances proved to be satisfactory.

Eighty-three visits were made to premises where milk is produced, treated or stored for sale, and two contraventions were dealt with. Also two complaints of unclean bottles received attention.

*Ice Cream :—*

This matter received considerable attention during the latter part of the Summer. A Standard setting out the requirements and conditions deemed to be necessary in regard to structure, equipment and cleanliness of premises used for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, in order to qualify for registration under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, was drawn up and adopted by the Council.

Inspections of premises were carried out and copies of the Standard were supplied to traders, whose co-operation was solicited in its attainment, and advice was given with this object in view. Improvements in three instances were effected at manufacturers' premises. Seven samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination for the presence of B. Coli, and the reports in all cases were satisfactory.

*Meat and Other Foods :—*

The Council's slaughter-house has continued to operate as the Regional Slaughtering and Distributing Establishment under the control of the Ministry of Food for the supply of meat to the town and surrounding area. After continuous usage for several years entailing heavy wear and tear, the premises have now been thoroughly overhauled and renovated. During the summer months, experiments were carried out with the spraying of insecticide solutions containing D.D.T. with beneficial results in the diminution of the prevalence of flies.

During the year, 7,330 animals were slaughtered, and all carcasses and organs were subjected to routine inspection before distribution. The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 18 tons 15 cwts. 2 qrs. 25 lbs.

Fifteen Licences to Slaughter were renewed.

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected ... ..	1,183	290	464	5,266	127
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	9	10	3	70	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	293	87	8	232	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	25.5	33.4	2.4	5.7	17.3
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	10	9	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	143	75	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	12.9	28.9	—	—	3.9

Eighty-five requests to inspect doubtful or damaged food-stuffs were dealt with, and these consisted chiefly of controlled foods. The total quantity of miscellaneous articles condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 10,416½ lbs. and entailed the issue of 194 certificates.

#### *Defects remedied at food premises :—*

Structural and drainage defects rectified ... ..	10
Cleansing and other defects remedied ... ..	6

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## Notifications :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	6	Measles	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	59	Pneumonia	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1

No deaths from notifiable disease.

*Tuberculosis :—*

				Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
New Cases :—					
Male	...	...	...	3	0
Female	...	...	...	2	0
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	5	0
				—	—
Deaths :—					
Male	...	...	...	2	0
Female	...	...	...	0	0
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	2	0
				—	—

Yours faithfully,

S. P. STOKER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

B. G. ELLIOTT,

*Sanitary Inspector.*







